



**MEDIA RELEASE**

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**PROJECT SAFE NEIGHBORHOODS**

**FORMER STRAFFORD MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO FIREARM POSSESSION**

**CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE:** United States Attorney Tom Colantuono and Portsmouth Police Chief Michael Magnant announce that Donald Ure, age 37 and formerly of Strafford, New Hampshire, pleaded guilty today in U. S. District Court before District Court Judge Steven McAuliffe to one count of possessing a firearm while being an unlawful user of controlled substances. Federal law prohibits a person who is either addicted to or an unlawful user of a controlled substances from possessing a firearm. The offense is a felony and is punishable by up to ten (10) years imprisonment.

Mr. Ure was arrested by Portsmouth Police Officer Eric Kinsman in the early morning hours of September 11, 2003, in a commercial parking lot on Green Street in Portsmouth. After a brief encounter with Ure, and following a consensual search of Ure's vehicle, Officer Kinsman placed Ure under arrest for possession of a controlled substance. Kinsman also located Ure's Smith & Wesson 9 millimeter handgun in the back of the vehicle. Ure later admitted to being an unlawful user at the time of the possession of the handgun. Mr. Ure was not charged with being an addict in possession of a firearm.

United States Attorney Colantuono said, "This case is another example of the Justice Department's successful Project Safe Neighborhoods initiative. Congress has declared that firearms in the hands of drug users is a dangerous combination. Let this case send the message that the risk of violence that arises from drugs and guns will not be tolerated."

Mr. Ure is scheduled to be sentenced on March 17, 2004.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Mark E. Howard.